EXERCISES AND PROJECTS

Note: Projects should be handed in as stereo audio files, clearly identified in the title, with multi-channel works recorded in a ProTools session.

Project Notes:

(1)   Soundscape exercise. Take one or more recordings from the WSP Tape Collection, use editing, audio processing, and multi-track mixing to create a short (4-5 minute) composition in stereo or 8-channel format.

(2)   Final Project: This is a 6-week project of your own design, and may use field recorded or studio recorded material, or copies of material in the WSP Tape Collection. The piece may be in any of the standard audio medium *genres*: Aural History, Documentary, Text-Sound, Soundscape Composition, or combinations thereof. Most of these will be discussed in class and illustrated. The project should be discussed with the instructor before it is begun in terms of resources needed, format, length, etc. You will use ProTools for this project in either the stereo or 8-channel formats (with or without spatialization with the TiMax2). Duration of the project depends on which genre is chosen, but normally this project will be in the 8 - 12 minute range.

Notes: Projects realized in ProTools need to be bounced to disk as follows:

Stereo pieces: Use the bounce to disk option for output channels Analog 1-2 (not the default!), for '**interleaved stereo**' (not multiple mono). If you ask for the 'offline' option (check box), this will happen quickly; otherwise it plays through the session in real time. Also indicate the file name you want to store it under and the directory folder. Afterwards, open the file in the editor and check for levels, balance between channels, etc. If there was any peak clipping (or near peak levels) you'll see the red mark in the output channels of your PT session, assuming you've included a Master Output fader, which is always a good idea. For Audition sessions, there's a Mixdown Session option, but again**, check your levels**. These should ideally allow between 1 and 3 dB headroom; low levels can be boosted, and if there are any brief peak levels, check them aurally for possible distortion.

Multi-channel pieces: For an 8-channel piece, use the bounce to disk option four times for each pair of your output channels (e.g. Analog 1-2, Output 3-4, Output 5-6, Output 7-8) using the offline option. However, in this case it is better to use the default option of '**multiple mono**' output tracks. That is, you will end up with 8 .aiff files that can later be assigned to any playback system (once you've indicated the speaker configuration, e.g. circular clockwise starting at front middle or front left). ProTools will add a left (.L) and right (.R) indicator to the output files. It is best to remove those and label your files such as Audio 1, Audio 2, etc. These files will appear in a Bounced Files folder that can be added to a new session file. Using a standard 8 to 8 template, you can load these individual files into a new session and check that everything has turned out the way you intended, i.e. that all source files have been combined successfully into their respective output channels with no distortion (as indicated at the end of a bounce by a red mark on the Master fader).

RULES FOR STUDIO USE: THESE MUST BE CONSCIENTIOUSLY FOLLOWED IF YOU ARE TO RETAIN STUDIO PRIVILEGES.

1.   NO smoking, eating, or drinking in the Studio; take a break in the hall or outside -- it will clear your head!

2.   Your assigned regular studio time will be indicated on the online K-7657 studio calendar. If unable to use your studio time, make every possible effort to trade with someone, or have someone else use the time. If you want additional time, you can sign up for it if the slot is free.

3.   Clean up after studio use (also a good precaution against losing things).

4.   Use removable USB storage media to back up your computer soundfiles. Keep your files in your own folder in the CMNS 486 folder, and delete unused files or those that have ended up on the desktop.

5.   When leaving the studio at the end of your work time, turn off the lights, shut the window and the drapes, and shut the outer door. Regular users gain access to the studio with the punch code for the outer door (the inner door is unlocked).

6.   You may use the studio when it is free even if it has been booked. When the person who has booked it is more than one hour late, he/she still has priority for the remaining time but